THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration regarding Special Category Status of Chhattisgarh.

Special Status to Bihar

79. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Chief Minister has demanded a "Special Status" for Bihar;

(b) if so, what is meant by "Special Status" to a State and which are the States that has been given a special status at present; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the Bihar Chief Minister's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grant of Special Category Status entails the states to have Special treatment in the allocation of Normal Central Assistance as well as the terms on which Central Assistance is extended to them. The apportionment of Normal Central Assistance is done on a 30:70 ratio between Special Category States and Non-Special Category States. Grant of Special Category Status entails the State of Normal Central Assistance in a 90:10 grant:loan ratio, while it is 30:70 grant:loan ratio for Non-Special Category States. Even though at present, the loan component is not provided by the Central Government, the *interse* apportionment amongst the States is still done based on the gross amount including the loan portion. There are 11 States at present which have been declared as Special Category States *viz*., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

(c) The proposal of Bihar for Special Category Status is under examination of the Government.

Winding up of NAC

80. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in 2004 constituted a National Advisory Council (NAC) under the aegis of Prime Minister's Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms and specific responsibilities, if any, entrusted to the NAC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NAC ceased to exist after March 31, 2008;

(d) if so, the details of the Notification issued, if any, for winding up of the NAC;

(e) the details of cost incurred from the exchequer, year-wise;

(f) whether any review of out-come of NAC has been carried out;